

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 W
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R 061419Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1428

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1392

FOR DEPUTY ASST SEC ARMITAGE, EUR, ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: ARMITAGE-POPOV MEETING JULY 1

REF: STATE 165377

1. DELIGHTED TO HAVE REFTEL WITH RECORD OF YOUR INTERESTING
CONVERSATION WITH POPOV. WHEN DOES HE EXPECT TO ARRIVE HERE?
WE ARE UNABLE TO DETERMINE FROM MFA AMERICA DESK; AND IF HIS
ARRIVAL IS MUCH DELAYED I SHOULD PROBABLY TALK WITH FOL AGAIN.

2. RE PARA 3 REFTEL, APPEARANCES MIGHT SUGGEST THAT I REALLY
HAD RECOMMENDED TO THE BULGARIANS THAT THEY DEAL DIRECTLY
WITH METROPOLITAN AND OTHER MUSEUMS (SINCE THIS IS AN ALTERNA-
TIVE THAT I HAD SUGGESTED TO THE DEPT). ACTUALLY HOWEVER I
ONLY LISTENED TO POPOV WHEN HE SUGGESTED THIS DURING OUR
TELEPHONE CONVERSATION IN NEW YORK, AND TOLD HIM INDIVIDUAL
MUSEUMS ARE VERY PRICKLY CUSTOMERS AND HE SHOULD TAKE NO
RUSHED STEPS IN THE MATTER WITHOUT CONSULTING YOU.

3. I MAY HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD FOL AND THEY MAY HAVE IN MIND
DEALING WITH SITES ON OTHER MUSEUMS. THAT THEY INTEND TO
DEAL DIRECTLY WITH METROPOLITAN, HOWEVER, IS CERTAIN.
PERHAPS THEY ARE ALREADY DOING SO. DAMYANOV TOLD ME
JULY 5 THAT THEY "EXPECTED SOMEONE FROM THE METROPOLITAN
IN SOFIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE." IF THIS IS TRUE, WOULD
YOU STILL THINK I SHOULD DISCOURAGE THEM FROM DEALING
DIRECTLY WITH THAT ONE MUSEUM? INCIDENTALLY, I WOULD
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APPRECIATE RESPONSE TO LAST SENTENCE SOFIA 1357. NOT

CLEAR FOR INSTANCE WHETHER THERE HAS EVER BEEN FOLLOW-UP
WITH FIELD MUSEUM.

4. RE LAST POINT PARA 1 REFTTEL, I AM ESPECIALLY GLAD
YOU NAILED DOWN THE BULGARIAN COMMITMENT TO GIVE US THE
SHIPKA GALLERY FOR "REFLECTIONS", FOR THERE SEEMS TO BE
SOME BACKSLIDING HERE. NOW THEY ARE TALKING ONLY OF
"FINDING A SUITABLE SPACE." MY P & C OFFICER WHO HAD
BEEN ON LEAVE IS CURRENTLY SICK IN BED, SO WE HAVE BEEN
UNABLE TO RE-CHECK DIMENSIONS; AND SINCE I AM NOT ENTIRE-
LY PERSUADED THAT THE EXHIBIT WOULD FIT INTO SHIPKA I
AM NOT YET MAKING AN ISSUE OF THIS.

5. DISTRESSED TO HAVE HAD NO RESPONSE WHATEVER TO SOFIA
1303 OF JUNE 17. DID YOU RECEIVE IT? PERHAPS A LETTER
FROM YOU IS ON ITS WAY. WARM REGARDS.
HERZ

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NNN

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